

1        CLAIMS

- 2        1. An electronic coupon processing system comprising:  
3                  a coupon data base containing coupon information associated to a consumer;  
4                  a system for recording product information sold to a consumer at a store;  
5                  a system for reconciling the coupon information in the coupon data base with the  
6                  product information sold to the consumer; and  
7                  means for updating the coupon data base to reflect utilization of coupons.
- 8        2. The system of claim 1 further comprising access means for a consumer to access the coupon  
9                  data base to review their account information.
- 10      3. The system of claim 2 wherein the access means includes access through the Internet.
- 11      4. The system of claim 1 further comprising access means for the consumer to access their  
12      information in the coupon data base at the store.
- 13      5. The system of claim 4 wherein the access means comprises a printout of the information in  
14      the coupon data base.
- 15      6. The system of claim 1 further comprising means for entering coupon information into the  
16      coupon data base.
- 17      7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a scanner to enter coupon information to the coupon  
18      data base.
- 19      8. An electronic coupon processing system comprising:  
20                  means for entering data from coupons into a data base;  
21                  a coupon data base containing coupon information associated to a consumer;

1 a check-out register capable of recording product information sold to a consumer;  
2 a system for reconciling the coupon information in the coupon data base with the  
3 product information sold to the consumer; and  
4 means for updating the coupon data base to reflect utilization of coupons.

5 9. The system of claim 8 further comprising access means for a consumer to access the coupon  
6 data base to review their account information.

7 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the access means includes access through the Internet.

8 11. The system of claim 8 further comprising access means for the consumer to access their  
9 information in the coupon data base at the store.

10 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the access means comprises a printout of the information in  
11 the coupon data base.

12 13. The system of claim 8 further comprising a scanner to enter coupon information to the  
13 coupon data base.

14 14. A method for electronic coupon processing comprising:  
15 entering coupon information of any consumer into a coupon data base, where the coupon  
16 information is attributed to the consumer;

17 reading product information sold to the consumer at a store;

18 18. S. b. reconciling the coupon data base information with the product information sold to the  
19 consumer;

20 deducting any discount or rebate from the consumer charges based on the reconciliation;  
21 and updating the coupon data base to reflect the reconciliation.

1 15. The method of claim 14 further comprising providing controlled access by consumers to the  
2 coupon data base.

3 16. The method of claim 15 wherein access is through the Internet.

4 17. The method of claim 14 further comprising providing controlled access to the coupon data  
5 base at the store.

6 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the access is in the form of a printout of the coupon  
7 information.

8 19. The method of claim 14 further comprising the utilization of a code scanner to enter the  
9 coupon information into the coupon data base.

10 20. The method of claim 14 wherein the coupon data base is shared by more than one store.

21. A method for electronic processing of discount coupons comprising:

entering coupon information of any consumer into a coupon data base where the coupon  
information is attributed and accessible to the consumer;

reading product information sold to the consumer at a store;

reconciling the coupon data base information with the product information sold to the  
consumer;

deducting any discount or rebate from the consumer charges based on the reconciliation;

and updating the coupon data base to reflect the reconciliation.

22. A method for electronic processing of discount coupons comprising:

reading coupon information with a bar code scanner and sending the coupon information  
to a data base where the coupon information is attributed to a specific consumer;

1 scanning information of products chosen by a consumer at a check out register having the  
2 capability to identify the consumer in relation to the coupon data base;  
3 reconciling the coupon information with the register information and providing any  
4 applicable discount to the consumer at the register;  
5 updating the data base to reflect purchases and discounts given at the register;  
6 sending the coupon information and register information to a source for reimbursement  
7 to vendor; and  
8 sending consumer information relating to either purchases, coupons or both to a data  
9 center.

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Add B